



22nd Year, 2nd Issue
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“
DeaFestival
is more
than just
a word.
”

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Communicator

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Bobbie Beth's Tidbits...

When you hear the word “DeaFestival” it may conjure images, curiosity, thoughts, feelings, emotions, or amazing opportunities. Each person that attends DeaFestival is attracted for a different reason.... but by the end of this one day free event, we have unified a variety of diverse individuals. DeaFestival, the name itself, was chosen for marketing purposes because it flows well and incorporates the diverse group of individuals with a hearing loss that the Commission serves. Identifying yourself with DeaFestival is very subjective and takes a variety of forms and represents the diversity within our subcultures.

In the past, deaf or hard of hearing individuals typically found employment as cobblers or newspaper printers. Today, thanks to the advancements in technology, deaf and hard of hearing individuals are free to explore all facets of employment opportunities. However, artists and performers, due to the nature of their talent and the purity of artistic design are often left behind when trying to “break into the mainstream,” and success is often still affected by the differences in their communication needs.

Coming from an acting background, I am fortunate to be surrounded by a diverse staff of deaf, hard of hearing and hearing individuals who have a passion for the work we strive to accomplish. I have worked with a 90 year old artist, Maggie Lee Sayre, who thought her photographs of life on the river were only for her personal memories, but found that they had historical value as documentation of a time long forgotten and a way of life that no longer exists. I have also worked with a 17 year old artist who thought her paintings were a passion not to be shared. After convincing her to attend and display work at DeaFestival 2002 she stood tall and proud at the end of the day. I felt this pride as well.

It's these stories and more that keep us focused on producing a festival of which everyone can enjoy and be proud. Some say that DeaFestival is a social event; some say it's a program that brings art and performance to the area in a mode of communication they can understand. Some see it as an opportunity

to stand before their peers and test the waters, before breaking into the mainstream. Some see it as an opportunity to show the hearing community that they are professional, talented artists with the ability to do anything a hearing artist can do. We at KCDHH see DeaFestival as an event which strives to accomplish all these things while EDUCATING and unifying a diverse population.

DeaFestival is rapidly gaining notoriety throughout the nation as one of the most professional and well-attended festivals. I recently met several young, new artists whose diversity ranged from individuals with cochlear implants, to those who identify themselves as hard of hearing, to those who are culturally deaf. These individuals now work in their home state as performers or artists. DeaFestival strives for this kind of diversity. Attendance at DeaFestival 2002 was about 50 % hearing and 50% deaf or hard of hearing, yet even with this success, we still face challenges in promoting the talents of deaf and hard of hearing individuals at the local level and encouraging them to take their rightful place as artists and performers in Kentucky.

Are you a residential student with talent, who hides this talent because career opportunities are lacking, unknown or unavailable? Are you a mainstream student with little or no ability to enhance your skills through mentoring and working with deaf or hard of hearing role models?

Is your “Art” just a hobby in your mind, but really the talent is there which would be marketable to mainstream America? Are you trying to break into the artistic/performance field but don't know what opportunities are available or who you should contact in Kentucky to get started?

If you answered yes to any of these, then come to DeaFestival on September 5th at the Kentucky Center in Louisville, and meet individuals with whom you can network and assist as mentors to your talents. Who knows...perhaps you will showcase your artwork or perform at DeaFestival 2006!

Bobbie Beth

Commission Members

Dr. Patricia Freeman, Chair
Member at Large Representative

Marcie Jeffers
Cabinet for Health and Family
Services Representative

Pat Huddleston
Parent Representative

Shannon Grider
Kentucky Registry of Interpreters
for the Deaf Representative

Joe Etienne
Kentucky Speech, Language &
Hearing Association Representative

Dodie Karr
Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

Cole Zulauf
Kentucky Association of the Deaf
Representative

Jayne McRae
Self Help for the Hard of Hearing
Representative

David Wylie
Kentucky Association of the Deaf
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Kevin Martin
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Virginia G. Fox
Education Cabinet Secretary

Merle Williams
Alexander Graham Bell
Representative

Betty Timon
American Association of Retired
Persons Representative

Mona McCubbin
Service Provider Representative

*The deadline to submit
information and articles for
the September 2004 edition of
the Communicator is August
2004. All materials provided
through KCDHH are available in
accessible format upon request.*



Summary of the Stakeholders Process May 2004

Since the status report on the work of the 16 stakeholder groups in December of 2003, all 16 stakeholder groups have made their final reports to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) with the last eight reports being made at the February 10-12th board meeting. The 16 stakeholder reports were made as follows:

October 2003

- Jefferson County Regional Report
- KY Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) Regional Report
- Caveland & River Region Educational Cooperatives (C&RRECC) Joint Regional Report
- Upper Cumberland & Wilderness Trail Educational Cooperatives (UC&WTEC) Joint Regional Report

December 2003

- Western KY Educational Cooperative (WKEC) Regional Report
- Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative (OVEC) Regional Report
- Northern KY Educational Cooperative (NKEC) Regional Report
- Big East Educational Cooperative (BEEC) Regional Report

February 2004

- Central KY Educational Cooperative (CKEC) Regional Report
- Expanding Outreach Services Statewide Report
- Early Identification Statewide Report

- Students with Complex Impairments Statewide Report
- Increasing the Number of Service Providers Statewide Report
- Supporting Parents and Families Statewide Report
- Closing the Achievement Gap Statewide Report
- Comprehensive High Schools Statewide Report

In April of 2004, a report was made to the Kentucky Board of Education that compiled and summarized stakeholder recommendations regarding services to students who are Blind/Visually Impaired and Deaf/Hard of Hearing. The culmination of the work of over 400 participants in this stakeholder process resulted in 16 stakeholder reports, 238 pages of text (excluding appendices), 108 goal statements and 745 individual strategies and actions. In addition to this report a document called the "Statewide and Regional Stakeholder's Summary of Reports Based on Probing Questions" was submitted to KBE. This document was the result of the work of the Core Team that consisted of representatives from KSB and KSD and special education cooperative directors.

KDE established a work team to review stakeholder recommendations and develop plans that will address changes to occur at KSD this coming school year as well as other changes that will affect students who are deaf/hard of hearing throughout the state. This plan will be presented at the Kentucky Board of Education meeting on June 2-3, 2004. A second plan which will involve more long range plans that focus on statewide services will be developed and presented at the August Board meeting.

Commission Staff

Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Ed.D.
Executive Director

Sereta Campbell, Executive Staff Interpreter
Anita Dowd, Information Program Coordinator
Rowena Holloway, Program Coordinator
Kevin Kreutzer, Network Analyst I
Tony Lowe, Information Systems Supervisor
Virginia L. Moore, State Interpreter Administrator
Rachel Morgan, Interpreter Relations Coordinator
Dana Parker, Executive Staff Advisor
Julie Posey, Executive Secretary
Sharon White, Document Processing Specialist II
Wilma Wright, Administrative Assistant

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Summary of the Stakeholders Process

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The most common themes found among all the 16 stakeholder reports were the following:

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| 1. Increasing the Number of Service Providers | 7. Technology & Assistive Technology |
| 2. Professional Development | 8. Early Identification |
| 3. Regional Services/Coordination | 9. Early Intervention |
| 4. Assessment (State/CATS Testing) | 10. Expanding Outreach Services |
| 5. Instruction/Curriculum/Expanded Core Curriculum | 11. DeafBlind/Complex Needs |
| 6. Support Parents & Families | |

Other issues, such as language and communication, statewide educational resource centers on deafness and blindness at KSD and KSD, respectively, and data collection are being addressed. Again, on behalf of the Kentucky Board of Education, the Department of Education expresses its sincerest appreciation for all the stakeholders' input and especially their time taken out of their busy schedule to serve as stakeholders.

DEAFESTIVAL-KENTUCKY

September 5, 2004



10:00 AM-3:00 PM Peter Cook takes the **Children's Program** back to medieval times uniting diversity through the "Golden Ring." Other performers include Pinky Aiello (Court Jester), Mathew Magic Morgan (Wizard), and Tammy Beatty (Queen), just to name a few. Hands-on craft projects including jousting events and a life size chess game, will be held with the children. Regardless of your age, this program promises to keep you entertained and mystified with medieval times.



10:00 AM-3:00 PM PUZZLED about Hearing Loss.....? Visit the **Culture and Traditions** tent and discover how technology lends itself to promoting equality. Stories from the past, present and future teach us how to better understand hearing loss and provide resources for coping with a hearing loss. See Simon Carmel (ASL storyteller and magician) explain how deaf and hard of hearing individuals cope in a hearing world.

12:00 PM-6:00 PM The Main Stage / **SpotLights** is located in the Bomhart Theatre at the Kentucky Center, and will be packed with nationally known new talent such as Kathy Buckley (Comedian), Rathskellar (artistic expression of ASL and Culture through dance and story telling), and Tammy Beatty & Roy Rocci (a unique combination of ART and Performance on stage). These and many more performers will be seen on stage, so check out www.deafestival.org for more details.



12:00 PM-6:00 PM The Kentucky Center is the perfect setting for the **Visual Artist Studio** where professional artists will find themselves surrounded by the natural beauty of the glass enclosed lobby. New work from nationally known artists such as Chuck Baird, Tony McGregor, Iris Arandas and Susan Dopor, as well as new artists whose work have not yet appeared at DeafFestival, will be showcased. Kentucky artists, including the 3B's, will also appear and are always a crowd favorite. Come early so you don't miss shopping for unique gifts.



Craft / Hobbyist booths will line the Belvedere with unique items from jewelry to metal plant stands, house flags, wooden crafts and much more. If you would like to participate in DeafFestival as an Exhibitor or become a Sponsor, contact us at www.kcdhh.ky.gov or 1-800-372-2907.

Commission on the Deaf
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An agency of the Kentucky Education Cabinet



THE KENTUCKY CENTER
SEPTEMBER 5, 2004
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

DeaFestival-Kentucky is anticipated to draw
10,000+ individuals! JOIN US!

www.deafestival.org

800-372-2907

Once again, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (KCDHH), DeaFestival-Kentucky, are collaborating to bring you a unique and exceptional DeaFestival – Kentucky Visual Artists Studio at the **47th Biennial NAD Conference in Kansas City, Mo – July 6-10, 2004**. Don't miss the opportunity to showcase your art, along with some of the most renowned professional artists throughout the world, and sell your work to the thousands of conference attendees. For more information contact KCDHH at 800-372-2907 or visit www.kcdhh.ky.gov.

